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OUDINOT ON CONDITIONAL CONVICTIONS

matic and tactful relationships, the subordination of private opinion, the willingness to serve without thought of credit or public recognition.

LAWRENCE VEILLER,

Secretary Committee on Criminal Courts of the Charity Organization Society, New York.

New Probation Law in Vermont.—The Vermont Commission on Probation has recently secured the enactment of an act to codify and amend the laws of that state relating to probation. It contains the radical provision that probation officers, instead of being appointed, as hitherto, by judges, shall hereafter be appointed by the State Probation Commission. According to the terms of the law, the first appointments were required to be made on March 1, 1913, and similar appointments shall be made bi-ennially hereafter. Each county has its own officer who serves during the pleasure of the State Commission. In case of need, special additional officers may also be appointed. The amount of compensation of the probation officers shall be determined by the county courts. The State Commission shall also "make all needful rules and regulations for the efficient administration of the statutes relating to probation; shall provide for such co-operation of probation officers and others connected with the administration of probation laws as in their judgment will best promote the system of probation, and to that end may hold such meetings for conference and instruction as they deem necessary; and shall prepare the forms of records, blanks and reports, and procure the necessary record books, blanks and stationery for the use of probation officers."

Section 14 of the new law authorizes probation officers, upon direction of the court, to expend for the temporary support and traveling expenses of the probationers such reasonable sums as the court may deem expedient. The amounts so authorized to be expended shall be entered on the docket of the clerk or records of the judge or justice and made a part of the record of such cause.

This new act, which was approved on January 16th, is original in many of its features. The law, together with a new act relating to the treatment of persons convicted of intoxication and a new chancery juvenile court law, is published in a pamphlet issued by the State Commission on Probation. The law is quoted in full above.—[Ed.] A. W. T.

Oudinot on Conditional Convictions.—Twenty years of experience with conditional conviction under the *loi Bérenger* (of March 26, 1891), in Frankreich, may be studied in a report by Dr. Marcel Oudinot. The essential elements of the law are: provisional release; such release to be final if the person convicted does not become an offender again within five years. Recidivism is punished with severity. Pardon is not a feature of the law. The use of the short term in prison is avoided, all admitting that it is an evil.

It is shown that the courts have made increasing use of the law as its effects are better known. In 1892, out of 1,000 permissible cases only 127 were treated under this law; while in 1907 the rate per 1,000 was 328. Recidivism has decreased; this being due to some extent to this legal innovation; and first offenses have not increased. Some abuses require correction and the author recommends: that this measure should not be employed